

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-04 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EUR-12 LAB-04 SIL-01 /067 W

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MITI DIRECTOR GENERAL AMAYA, AUGUST 4-9

REF: (A) STATE 174705 (B) STATE 173433

SUMMARY: AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MITI'S BASIC INDUSTRY BUREAU, AMAYA IS THE MINISTRY'S HIGHEST-RANKING OFFICIAL WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR STEEL. A WELL-KNOWN WRITER ON ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES, AMAYA'S STRONG POSITION IN MITI RESTS PRIMARILY ON HIS REPUTATION AS A THINKER RATHER THAN A LINE BUREAUCRAT. HE APPEARS TO HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR PROMOTION TO VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

2. AMAYA'S TRIP APPEARS TO BE THE RESULT OF INCREASING INDUSTRY/POLITICAL PRESSURE ON MITI FOR SOME POSITIVE ACTION ON US-JAPAN STEEL PROBLEMS. UNDER FIRE FROM AN INCREASINGLY STRONG CAMPAIGN BY JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND LABOR INTERESTS TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR A STEEL OMA, AMAYA MAY THINK THAT THE USG'S STATED ANTI-OMA POSITION IS BECOMING AS BELEAGUERED AS THE GOJ'S. THROUGH THIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, AMAYA CAN THUS DEMONSTRATE MITI'S ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE STEEL

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PROBLEM, AND TRY TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE USG REALLY WANTS. WE NOTE THAT MITI HAS NOT YET APPROACHED USDOC FOR A MEETING WITH AMAYA, AND HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THEY DO SO. END SUMMARY.

3. NAOHIRO AMAYA IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MITI'S BASIC INDUSTRY BUREAU, TRADITIONALLY ONE

OF THE STRONGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL IN THE MINISTRY. A GRADUATE OF TOKYO UNIVERSITY (LAW), AMAYA JOINED THE THEN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN 1948. HIS CAREER HAS INCLUDED POLICY-LEVEL JOBS IN THE CHEMICAL, HEAVY INDUSTRIES, AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUREAUS AS WELL AS THE PLANNING OFFICE OF THE MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT. AMAYA IS A PROLIFIC WRITER ON ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES AND HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLISHED IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS. POPULAR WITH THE PRESS, AMAYA'S REPUTATION HAS DEVELOPED MORE AS A THINKER (RIRONKA) AND CRITIC THAN A LINE BUREAUCRAT. FOR THIS REASON, SEVERAL MITI OFFICIALS FEEL THAT HIS PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ADVANCEMENT DEPEND ON PROMOTION TO VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY RATHER THAN THE TOP CAREER POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER. IF THIS PROMOTION DOES COME, IT WILL HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR AMAYA WILL RETIRE TOGETHER WITH OTHER DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO ENTERED THE MINISTRY AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

4. CONTACTS AT MITI FEEL THAT AMAYA'S TRIP IS BEING PROMPTED BY INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE MINISTRY FROM THE JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY AND ITS POLITICAL SUPPORTERS, UP TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THROUGH MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS, AMAYA CAN DEMONSTRATE ACTIVE MITI INVOLVEMENT IN US-JAPAN STEEL PROBLEMS

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TO INTERESTS BACK HOME WHILE TRYING TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE USG'S "REAL" INTENTIONS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THIS MAJOR TRADE ISSUE.

5. DURING RECENT WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASINGLY OPEN DRIVE BY JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY AND LABOR INTERESTS FOR CONSENSUS ON A STEEL OMA AS THE ONLY FEASIBLE WAY TO BOTH APPEASE U.S. INDUSTRY CRITICS AND AVOID AN ANTI-TRUST REACTION TO A SETTLEMENT ON STEEL TRADE. THIS CAMPAIGN WAS ESPECIALLY EVIDENT DURING THE U.S.-CANADA-JAPAN METALWORKER'S CONFERENCE IN TOKYO AS WELL AS THE COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OECD AD HOC STEEL GROUP. INDUSTRY STATEMENTS AND PRESS ARTICLES HERE HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT INDUSTRY/LABOR PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PACIFIC MAY BE COMPELLING THE USG AND GOJ TO ENTER INTO "MORE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS" ON STEEL IN SPITE OF THEIR BASIC UNWILLINGNESS TO DO SO.

6. IN VIEWING U.S. INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUCH RELATIONS IN JAPAN, AMAYA IS QUITE LIKELY UNDER THE IMPRESSION

THAT THE USG IS NOW IN A POSITION ON STEEL SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE GOJ, AND WILL PROBABLY TRY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE USG'S STATED OPPOSITION TO AN OMA IS IN FACT BEING UNDERMINED BY DOMESTIC INDUSTRY/LABOR PRESSURE. WHILE THE GOJ IS STILL VERY WARY OF APPROACHING SOLUTIONS TO STEEL PROBLEMS THROUGH A MULTI-LATERAL FORUM, THEY MAY BE BECOMING MORE RECEPTIVE TO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, YET ARE CLEARLY AT SOMETHING OF A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT EXACTLY IT IS THAT WE WANT.

7. AMAYA WILL PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICIAL FROM THE AMERICAS DIVISION OF MITI'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUREAU. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MITI HAS NOT YET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT FOR AMAYA WITH DEPT. OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS. WE RECOMMEND THAT HE MEET WITH EITHER ASST. SEC. WEIL OR DEP. ASST. SEC. KATZ AS WELL AS COMMERCE OFFICIALS ASCHER AND ABBUHL. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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